In the Specification

Please replace original Figures 9, 12, and 16 with the attached new Figures 9, 12, and 16.

Please substitute the following paragraph on page 54, beginning at line 12:

In order to eliminate most of the residual impurities including endotoxins, the fraction was adjusted to pH 5 and subjected to a Carboxymethyl Ceramic (BioSepra) column. The CMC column was equilibrated with loading buffer (50 mM sodium acetate, pH 5). After sample application and washing of the column with washing buffer (50 mM sodium acetate, sodium chloride 0.2 M, pH 6), elution was carried out in one step with buffer (50 mM sodium acetate, 0.8 M sodium chloride, pH 6). Finishing steps may also included a G25 Sephadex purification step for desalting followed by a Q Sepharose Fast Flow (QFF Pharmacia) which retained various residual contaminants. R-IL-7 drug substance was recovered pure in the flow through, as ~~showed~~ shown in figure 9 representing SDS-PAGE analysis: ~~coomassie~~Coomassie blue colored and silver stained.

Please substitute the following paragraph on page 45, beginning at line 14:

Plasmid DNA from a positive clone was digested with restriction endonucleases BamHI and NdeI and the resulting fragment, r-sIL-7 encoding DNA sequence, was inserted into ptac vector, as ~~descibed~~ described in example 1.1., which was also digested with *BamHI* and *NdeI* restriction sites. The ligation products were transformed into TOP10 competent cells. The selection for plasmid-containing cells was on the basis of the antibiotic (kanamycin) resistance marker gene carried on the vector. Plasmid DNA from a positive clone was isolated from cultured cells, selected by restriction mapping and confirmed by sequencing analysis using T7 terminator universal primer on one hand and ptac promoter primer on the other hand as sequencing primers.

Please substitute the following paragraph on page 49, beginning at line 6 (Applicants have not amended the paragraph; it is being provided to show the text inadvertently covered by the text box of SEQ ID NO: 15):

- SEQ ID NO 14 : PSIL7EcoRV5'

5'A*GATATC*ATGTTCCATGTTTCTTTTAGGTA3'

*EcoR*V

- SEQ ID NO 15 : PSIL7MluI3'

5'A*ACGCGT*TCAGTGTTCTTTAGTGCCCAT3'

*Mlu*I

PCR products were assayed by agarose gel electrophoresis in the presence of ethidium bromide and visualization by fluorescence of DNA bands stimulated by UV irradiation. The obtained product band , corresponding to the expected size of the hPSIL-7 cDNA, was isolated and inserted into the plasmid vector pCRII-TOPO (Invitrogen) using the TA-cloning method. The ligation products were transformed into TOP10F' competent cells. To select positive clones, plasmid DNA minipreparations (Biorad), prepared from cultured individual bacterial clones, were analysed by restriction mapping and confirmed by dideoxy sequencing (Sanger et al.; 1977; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA; 74:5463-5467) using pCRII-TOPO universal primers.